Two More Heroes Have Departed:

Charles Parkhurst  
1913-2008

Sherman Lee 
1918-2008

From the Desk of Robert M. Edsel

This has been a sorrow-filled two weeks for those who love art and culture. Two great men, both "Monuments Men," have died. Charles Parkhurst left us on June 25th. He was a magnificent fellow who lived a long, full life. Yesterday, July 9th, another giant passed: Sherman Lee. Sherman, like Charles, was blessed with an incredibly accomplished career and rich life. His contributions to the establishment of excellence and connoisseurship in the arts are legendary.

The deaths of both men underscore our race against time to find other living Monuments Men and acknowledge their legacy as soon as possible. Only ten identified "Monuments Men" are still with us - nine men and one woman. We honor them by remembering. A more detailed account of each man's life and career may be found on the following pages. Full biographies for all Monuments Men may be found on our website, www.rescuingdavinci.com. We extend our condolences to both the Parkhurst and Lee families.

A number of people contacted us about Chuck's obituary in The New York Times, written by William Grimes, in which Charles was publicly recognized as a "Monuments Man." For years we have written letters to writers at national news organizations, in particular The New York Times, to request that they stop referring to our heroes as "members of the Allied forces" and start calling them "Monuments Men." So it was with some satisfaction that we are finally seeing that effort yield results as these remarkable men and women of the Monuments, Fine Arts, and Archives section are truly deserving of every accolade possible.
Lt. Charles Parkhurst

One of the greats, Charles Parkhurst, has died. He was 95 years of age. Charles had an incredibly distinguished career as a museum director, curator, and art historian which spanned more than 50 years. During those years he worked at the National Gallery of Art, The Baltimore Museum of Art, the Albright-Knox Gallery in Buffalo, and the Princeton University Art Museum, among others. He was also an outstanding educator of art with teaching positions at Oberlin College and Williams College.

But we will forever remember and honor Chuck for his service not just to our nation as a Lieutenant in the U.S. Navy during World War II, but his critically important work as a Monuments Officer. Beginning in May 1945 Parkhurst served as Deputy Chief of the Seventh Army MFAA section of the U.S. Military Government in Germany. He helped coordinate the numerous tasks of the Monuments Men in post-war Germany centered on the restitution of the hundreds of thousands of works of art and other cultural belongings stolen by Hitler and the Nazis and located by the Monuments Men.

But Charles Parkhurst’s service was much greater. In addition to standing with his fellow Monuments Men on the principle that no works of art should be removed from Germany in the face of great controversy, he also played a key role in jump-starting cultural life in Germany after the war by creating exhibitions which allowed local citizens to see works of art, even though German museums were closed due to damage from the war. For his wartime efforts as a Monuments Officer, Charles was named Chevalier, Legion of Honor by France.

Charles was so fortunate to have a magnificent lady and art scholar in her own right as his wife, Carol Clark, and a wonderful family. Having the opportunity to meet Chuck and Carol two years ago at their charming home in Amherst was one of the personal highlights of my work these past seven years. Knowing that Chuck was ill, and of course the age of all the Monuments Men and women, underscored the sense of urgency in our effort to seek the support in the Senate and the House of Representatives for our Resolution honoring the men and women of the Monuments, Fine Arts, and Archives section.

We will miss Charles Parkhurst enormously, and all he stood for in the education, appreciation and protection of art and culture. Our condolences go out to his family and numerous close friends.
Lt. Sherman Lee

A renowned expert on Asian art, Sherman Lee served as a Lieutenant in the Naval reserves from 1944 until 1946, when he began working as an advisor to the MFAA in Tokyo. Unlike in Europe, the Monuments Men were not sent to Japan until after hostilities ended in 1945, and even then there were only a handful of Monuments Men and several Japanese assistants and colleagues charged with inspecting cultural property across Japan. Their mission was to inventory all Japanese art and monuments, including buildings, gardens, and national parks, to evaluate war damage, and also to promote exhibitions of Japanese art and living artists. Through Lee’s negotiation’s with the Japanese government, the collection of the Shosoin Imperial Repository in Nara was exhibited publicly in 1947 for the first time in history.

Lee used the experience of working as a Monuments Man in Japan to further his career as well, “I took every opportunity to avail myself of the chance, and such knowledge as I now possess I owe to our Japanese representatives in the field.” In recognition of his service, the Japanese Government awarded Lee the Order of the North Star and the Order of the Sacred Treasures. He also received the Legion of Honor.

Prior to his military service, Sherman received both his Bachelors and Masters of Arts from American University, and his Doctorate degree from Case Western University in 1941. He became Curator of Far Eastern Art at the Detroit Institute of Arts in 1941. From 1948 until 1952 he taught at the University of Washington and also was Associate Director at the Seattle Art Museum. In 1952, Lee began his long career at the Cleveland Museum of Art. Over the years he served as Chief Curator of Oriental Art, Assistant Director, and Associate Director, becoming Director in 1958. As director, he greatly expanded all areas of the museum’s collection, and highlighted the role of educational programs, adding an education wing in 1971. Lee retired from the Cleveland Museum in 1983 and began teaching as an adjunct professor of art history at the University of North Carolina-Chapel Hill. The Ruth and Sherman Lee Institute for Japanese Art was founded in his honor at the Clark Center near Fresno, California.

Sherman Lee is survived by his wife, Ruth, daughters Katherine Lee Reid, former director of the Cleveland Museum of Art, Elizabeth Lee Chiego and her husband Bill, Director of the McNay Art Museum in San Antonio, and Margaret Gray Bachenheimer, and one son, Thomas Weaver Lee.
The men and women who protect our nation every day serve voluntarily. They could be doing a lot of different things with their time. Almost any of those choices would entail little or no “life or death” risk. This stands in stark contrast to the peril those in uniform face each day. Meanwhile, because of their sacrifice, those of us in the United States have the luxury of going about our day, enjoying life, seeing friends, building careers, raising families, and all too often having days pass with nary a thought about how lucky we are and who is making this luxury we too often take for granted possible. Ask yourself, when is the last time you stopped for a moment and thought about how lucky you are to have the freedom to do all the things you did yesterday?

I’ve had many great moments with military folks, more so with Veterans of World War II than current soldiers, but on each occasion I have come away wondering how I can do something that would say to them “thanks” for all you have done to make our nation better and safe. To wit: I was recently contacted by Chief Warrant Officer Ely Martinez, who is an Army man serving our nation in Baghdad. Ely had, somehow, heard about my book *Rescuing Da Vinci*, and wanted to know if he could get a signed copy as he was really moved to learn about the role of the Monuments Men during World War II. His email opened up a dialogue between us, which I have greatly enjoyed. One thing led to another, and in short order we sent him a gift of not one but twelve signed books, each inscribed to officers and fellow soldiers who were important to him and his life.

A few weeks later I received confirmation from Ely that the books arrived safely and quite an expression of gratitude. He was happy; I was very happy to do something, anything, no matter how small, to say “thanks” to these remarkable young Americans. Hardly much of a sacrifice on my part, but it made me feel good, plain and simple.

After a long road trip of lectures and research, I returned to my office to find a box sitting under my desk. In it was an American flag that was flown on March 25th by Bravo Company, 603rd Aviation Support Battalion, 3rd Combat Aviation Brigade, 3rd Infantry Division, on a combat mission over Baghdad in my honor. They also sent me several photos holding my book: talk about speechless. I never had to leave my office or home to make this small gesture; yet these men and women haven’t seen their homes in months, in some cases longer. I am SO grateful to Ely and his teammates for their thoughtful gift. I shall cherish it all my life.

To the brave men and women of Bravo Company, and all their compatriots, THANK YOU FOR “WALKING THE WALL,” FOR KEEPING US SAFE AT HOME. WE OWE YOU A DEBT WE CAN NEVER REPAY.
The Craig Hugh and Barbara Linforth Smyth Library at Villa I Tatti

Craig Smyth was the third director of Villa I Tatti, from 1973 to 1985. Under his leadership, I Tatti’s endowment more than doubled, and he strengthened relationships with the Samuel H. Kress, Robert Lehman, Andrew W. Mellon, and Leopold Schepp Foundations as well as the J. Paul Getty Trust in order to ensure a successful future for the center. He established the I Tatti Council and the publication *I Tatti Studies: Essays in the Renaissance*, which is still published to this day. Smyth took a “deep interest in the work of the I Tatti scholars... and together Craig and Barbara strove to improve the lot of each and every one associated with the Harvard Center.”

Villa I Tatti was owned by Bernard Berenson, a great historian, art critic, and collector. When he died in 1959, the estate was left to Harvard, from where he graduated in 1887. He wished to provide younger scholars with a center to advance humanistic learning. Today The Harvard University Center for Italian Renaissance Studies at Villa I Tatti is devoted to advanced study of the Italian Renaissance in all its aspects: the history of art; political, economic, and social history; the history of science, philosophy, and religion; and the history of literature and music. Fifteen fellows are chosen each year to study at I Tatti, along with Senior Research Associates and Visiting Professors, as well as several Craig Hugh Smyth Fellows and Mellon Research Fellows from Eastern Europe, who stay for three months.

Craig Smyth was said by his friends at I Tatti to have “led the institute with charm, grace and friendly good humor.” No doubt he ran the Munich Collecting Point as a Monuments Man after World War II with the same character. Once again we can see how many lives and educational institutions the Monuments Men touched, and we are pleased that I Tatti has chosen to honor the Smyths in such a generous way.

For more information on how to donate to the Smyth Library Fund, please contact Alexa Mason at amason@harvard.edu.
PBS Broadcast of *The Rape of Europa*

On Monday November 24th, PBS will broadcast nationally our award-winning, two-hour documentary film, *The Rape of Europa*. It will air at 9 p.m. Eastern Standard Time. This is an excellent time slot and should provide a significant audience size. In fact, our film was originally conceived for television, and PBS in particular, but after completing filming we were encouraged to consider a theatrical run which we ultimately pursued with great success. We are delighted that a national audience will now have the opportunity to enjoy this remarkable film. Please stay tuned for further updates on the DVD release.

**Behind the Scenes: “Angels”**

*by Robert M. Edsel*

Many people have helped us in the telling of this great story and each of its component parts. Our success is the sum total of those acts of generosity, expressions of good will, and shared determination to make this story known to all. Too often these essential “angels” are not seen by the public, yet they are no less deserving of praise. In each issue I intend on mentioning the names of some of our “angels.” Each knows what they’ve done to help us. To all of them, mentioned or not, we say “thank you.” The Monuments Men and their families are eternally appreciative.

This month we would like to thank:


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**UPCOMING EVENTS**

**SPEAKING ENGAGEMENTS**

**El Paso Holocaust Museum**  
El Paso, TX  
September 24, 2008

**Tyler Museum of Art**  
Tyler, TX  
October 4 & 5, 2008

**University of North Texas**  
Denton, TX  
October 15, 2008

**Dallas Public Library Annual Dinner**  
Dallas, TX  
October 30, 2008

**Dallas Holocaust Museum**  
Dallas, TX  
November 9, 2008

**Oklahoma City Town Hall**  
Oklahoma City, OK  
November 20, 2008

**Philadelphia Museum of Art**  
Philadelphia, PA  
November 23, 2008

**Vero Beach Museum**  
Vero Beach, FL  
February 16, 2009

**The Women’s Institute of Houston**  
Houston, TX  
February 27, 2009

**The Webb School**  
Nashville, TN  
April 2, 2009